

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 3, 2003. Claims 1-5, 7-13, and 15-34 are presented for examination. Claims 6 and 14 have been canceled, and their recitations incorporated into their respective base Claims 1 and 11; these actions are taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 1, 2, 3, 7, 10, 11, 17, and 18 have been amended to define more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Claims 19-34 have been added to provide Applicant with a more complete scope of protection. Claims 1, 11, 17-19, 22, 24, 25, 28, and 30-34 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

A Letter Transmitting Corrected Formal Drawing is submitted herewith, incorporating the changes depicted in Request For Approval To Make Drawing Changes, dated September 13, 2002, and approved by the Examiner in the above-identified Office Action.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that Claims 6, 7, and 14 would be allowable if rewritten so as not to depend from a rejected claim, and with no change in scope. Independent Claim 1, which is the base claim for dependent Claim 6, has been amended to include the features of Claim 6, and therefore Claim 1 is now believed to be in condition for allowance. Similarly, independent Claims 17, and 18, which include features similar to those of independent Claim 1, have been amended to also include the features of Claim 6, and therefore Claims 17 and 18 are now believed to be in condition for allowance. Independent Claim 11, which is the base claim for allowable dependent Claim 14, has been amended to include the features of Claim 14, and therefore Claim 11 is now believed to be in condition for allowance. These actions obviate the prior art rejections.

New independent Claims 33 and 34 are method claims corresponding to independent Claims 1 and 11, respectively, and are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

Applicant submits that new independent Claim 19 is in condition for allowance for at least the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in new independent Claim 19 is a printing system which includes a printing device and plural servers which communicate with the printing device via a network. The printing system includes input means, connecting control means, transfer means, confirmation means and obtaining means. The input means inputs address information of one of the servers to the printing device. The connecting control means controls the printing device to connect to the server which corresponds to the address information entered by the input means, and the input means inputs document identification information and user identification information to the printing device. The transfer means transfers the document identification information and the user identification information inputted by the input means from the printing device to a communication link. The confirmation means confirms whether the user identification information entered by the input means is valid or not. The obtaining means obtains document data corresponding to the document identification information entered by the input means for the server when the confirmation means confirms the user identification information is valid. Support for independent Claim 19 can be found at least in Figure 5, steps S21, S22, S27, and S28, Figure 6 (CPU 3 controlling the network interface 2), and at page 15, line 15 and thereafter.

Farros et al., as understood by Applicant, relates to a printing system which facilitates the creation of a variety of types of documents and the printing of certain documents locally or at a remote printing facility. *Farros et al.* inputs credit card information, which is compressed and stored into memory. However, *Farros et al.* fails to disclose confirming whether entered user identification information is valid or not, as recited in Claim 19. Further, *Farros et al.* fails to teach or suggest the obtaining means of Claim 19, that obtains document data corresponding to document identification information entered by an input means for the server when the confirmation an entered user identification information is valid. This is because the obtaining means of Claim 19 is recited as operating based on confirmation by confirming means that the user identification information entered by an input means is valid or not, which as noted *Farros et al.* fails to disclose.

Furthermore, nothing has been found in *Farros et al.* that teaches or suggests transfer means transferring document identification information and user identification information inputted by the input means from the printing device to a communication link.

Still further, *Farros et al.* fails to teach or suggest inputting means for inputting address information of one of the servers to the printing device, as recited in Claim 19, because the *Farros et al.* system does not require inputting means to select a server from the plurality of servers.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicant submits that independent Claim 19 is in condition for allowance.

New Claims 20 and 21 are dependent upon new independent Claim 19 and are also believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as discussed in connection with Claim 19.

New independent Claim 22 is directed to a printing device, which corresponds to the printing device recited in independent Claim 19, and is believed to be in condition for allowance for reasons substantially similar as those discussed above in connection with independent Claim 19. Further, new Claim 23 depends upon new independent Claim 22 and is also believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as independent Claim 22.

New independent Claim 24 is directed to an information apparatus which corresponds to the server recited in independent Claim 19, and is believed to be in condition for allowance for reasons substantially similar as those discussed above in connection with independent Claim 19.

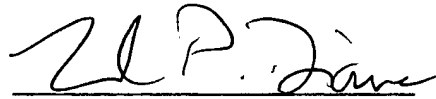
Claims 25-27 are method claims corresponding to system Claims 19-21, respectively, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claims 19-21. Claims 28 and 29 are method claims corresponding to device Claims 22 and 23 and are also believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claims 22 and 23.

New independent Claims 30-32 are machine-readable recording medium claims corresponding to Claims 19, 22, and 24, respectively, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claims 19, 22, and 24.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Z.P. Davis", written over a horizontal line.

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